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The Amu-Dar'ya River has been very little used for irrigation and navigation, inasmuch as it has had difficult channel conditions and there has been no connection with the river basins of the European part of the USSR. Connection of the isolated Aral basin with the Volga will be effected by directing the waters of the Amu-Dar'ya toward the Caspian Sea.

The dimensions of the Main Turkmen Canal should be such as to permit ships to go from the source of the Amu-Dar'ya to the Caspian Sea and further along the Volga without breaking cargo.

Since the dam on the Amu-Dar'ya will have low pressure, there will be no reservoir on the upper stretch and the head of water will extend only for 30 kilometers; navigation conditions on the upper stretch should be improved by dredging operations. It must be kept in mind that below the dam at Takhia Tash the channel conditions of the river will become considerably complicated, especially in March, April, and May, when the demand for water for irrigation will be great. Also, the discharge of the river at this time is little amounting, on the average, in March to 990 cubic-meters per second, in April 1,700 cubic meters per second, and in May 3,150 cubic meters per second. In June the average discharge is 4,500 cubic meters per second, in July 4,900 cubic meters per second, and August 3,200 cubic meters per second. The smallest discharge is from November through February (from 880 to 920 cubic meters per second). The largest discharge takes place in the hottest days (up to 10,000 cubic meters per second), when ice melts in the upper reaches of the river and its tributaries. In the Aral Sea, channel conditions change as a result of the lowering of the water level, especially at the approaches to docks.

The South Ukrainian Canal, with a discharge of 650 cubic meters per second, should have a cross section greatly exceeding the cross section of the Canal imeni Moskva.

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- 2 -

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